

Mrs. Powers Can't Believe He's a Spy

Helped Him to Pack His Bag for Mission

MILLEDGEVILLE, Ga., May 10 (UPI).—The wife of captured flyer Francis G. Powers, tense, pale and dressed in black, said today she does not believe her husband is a spy.

"My husband is not a spy and he is not engaged in espionage activity," Mrs. Barbara Powers, twenty-five, told reporters at a news conference on the lawn of her mother's home here. She said her husband, now held in Russia for spying, had discussed his missions for Lockheed Aircraft Corp. with her only in general terms.

Routine Missions

She said he often flew long missions, but that they were considered routine. She said he was assigned to weather reconnaissance and research projects and that they know half a dozen other Lockheed pilots doing the same type work. He received \$1,600 a month salary, she said.

"My husband is not a spy," Mrs. Powers insisted. "I firmly believe this. I do not believe he was on an intelligence mission."

She said she last saw her husband April 30 at their quarters at Adana, Turkey, base of weather reconnaissance operations in a National Aeronautics and Space Administration research project. She said her husband asked her to help him pack his bag. He did not say how long he would be gone, she said, and the next news she had was word that he was down in Russia.

Speaking in a soft voice but showing her nervousness, Mrs. Powers said her role was that of any pilot's wife who must regard his profession with some apprehension. She said she was no different from other wives in this respect.



Associated Press Wirephoto

WIFE DEFENDS PILOT — Mrs. Barbara Powers (right), wife of the American pilot charged with spying on Russia, holding press conference yesterday in Milledgeville, Ga., as her mother, Mrs. Montecue Brown, listens in. Her leg is in a cast from injury while skiing in Turkey.

Concerned for Safety

Her husband's pay checks, except for their living expenses, were sent directly to their bank. She said she did not know who signed the pay checks.

She emphasized she was under no restrictions in answering reporters' questions, but hes, would release her husband that she knew very little about. "I also have every confidence her husband's plight other than that out State Department and than information relayed to government are doing everything possible to bring about her by a Lockheed public information representative, William his early release."

O. Miller, who arranged the news conference.

"Naturally I am very con-

cerned about my husband's safety and welfare," Mrs. Powers said. "I can only wait and hope that he will be returned soon." She said she has hope that Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, who has on past occasion reunited separated families, would release her husband. Mrs. Powers, who suffered a broken leg in a water skiing accident, was flown home from Turkey last week end. She met reporters with her leg and foot in a cast. Her mother, sister and brother-in-law accompanied her.

receive a bad conduct discharge at the reduced rate of fireman. He was convicted of setting fire to an aviation fuel pump aboard the Midway Nov. 9 while it was docked in Subic Bay in the Philippines.